

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle
2 functions, the interface comprising:
3 a knob which is bidirectionally rotatable at a rest level and a pressed level;
4 a selected one of said vehicle functions being selected by said knob at said rest
5 level; and
6 said selected one of said vehicle functions being controlled by said knob at said
7 pressed level.

1 2. The human-machine interface of claim 1 wherein each of said vehicle
2 functions is associated with a detent position of said knob at said rest level.

1 3. The human-machine interface of claim 1 further comprising at least one
2 annunciator indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said
3 knob at said pressed level.

1 4. The human-machine interface of claim 1 further comprising a display screen
2 indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said knob at said
3 pressed level.

1 5. The human-machine interface of claim 1 wherein at least one of the vehicle
2 functions is an on/off function, said human-machine interface further comprising an
3 indicator reflective of the state of said on/off function.

1 6. The human-machine interface of claim 1 wherein said selected functions
2 comprise a fan speed and a temperature.

1 7. A human-machine interface device for controlling a plurality of vehicle
2 functions, the interface comprising:

3 a knob which is bidirectionally rotatable at a first level and a second level;

4 a selected one of said vehicle functions being selected by said knob at said first
5 level; and

6 said selected one of said vehicle functions being controlled by said knob at said
7 second level.

1 8. The human-machine interface of claim 7 wherein each of said vehicle
2 functions is associated with a detent position of said knob at said first level.

1 9. The human-machine interface of claim 7 further comprising at least one
2 annunciator indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said
3 knob at said pressed level.

1 10. The human-machine interface of claim 7 further comprising a display screen
2 indicating said selected one of said vehicle functions is controlled by said knob at said
3 second level.

1 11. The human-machine interface of claim 7 wherein at least one of the vehicle
2 functions is an on/off function, said human-machine interface further comprising an
3 indicator reflective of the state of said on/off function.

1 12. The human-machine interface of claim 7 wherein said selected functions
2 comprise a fan speed and a temperature.

1 13. In a vehicle having a plurality of functions for controlling by a user, a method
2 for selecting and controlling the functions, the method comprising:

3 selecting a one of said functions by rotating a knob at a first level about an axis of
4 rotation;

5 translating said knob along said axis of rotation to a second level; and

6 controlling said one of said functions by rotating said knob at said second level.